(c) whether these meals have been designed by nutritionists to ensure that children do not suffer from malnutrition; and

(d) the total expenditure on the mid-day meal scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) As per available information, during 2002-03 about 1.75 lakh schools are providing cooked/processed foods under the Mid-day meal Scheme. While cooked meals are being provided in Gujarat, Kerala, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, UTs of A&N Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Pondicherry, ready-to-eat food are being distributed in Delhi.

(c) The meals being provided in States/UTs differ according to the local food habits but the States are requested to maintain a minimum value of 300 calories as recently directed by Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(d) No funds are allocated to States/UTs. Year-wise expenditure incurred during the last three years is given as under:—

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in crores)
1999-2000	1500.00
2000-2001	1299.00
2001-2002	1030.26

Bio-Technology Courses at higher secondary level

396. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CBSE has introduced bio-technology for class XI;

(b) if so, the reasons for introduction of bio-technology for class XI;

(c) how many schools, as per the directions of the CBSE, have appointed bio-technology teachers for teaching the same to the students;

(d) whether it is also a fact that 50 per cent of the chapters on bio-technology are not being taught in schools; and

(e) if so, what action has been taken on such schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the information received from the CBSE the Board periodically updates the curriculum for the Secondary and Senior Secondary schools affiliated to it in order to meefthe emerging challenges arising out of scientific and technological innovations. Since biotechnology is an emerging field of science and has enormous scope and prospects for the younger generation, the Board has approved Biotechnology as a subject in 125 schools and has also prescribed the basic qualification of teachers for teaching this subject. The Board had undertaken extensive training programmes for orientation of the teachers in Bio-technology so that they are empowered to understand and apply the concepts.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Errors in social science text books

397. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI TARINIKANTA RAY:
SHRIV.V.RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Errors galore in NCERT text books" reported in the 'Hindu' dated 5th October, 2002;

(b) if so, whether teachers of various schools have found factual errors in the social science text books of VI and IX standards; if so, the details thereof;